

HOUSE RESOLUTION 67

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of David Earl Sheridan Tiller of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of David Earl Sheridan Tiller; and

WHEREAS, David Tiller was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on May 15, 1945, in Sierra Madre, California, David Tiller was of Cherokee and Irish descent, and he was proud of his American Indian ancestry and his early familiarity with Hispanic culture. He was the son of Dixie Earl, a unionizer, and Dorothy Sheridan Tiller, a school social worker, both of whom laid an early foundation for Mr. Tiller's community involvement; and

WHEREAS, during his youth in California, David Tiller was a member of the Pasadena Boy's Club, and he credited the organization for his experience and survival in the competitive, often violent atmosphere of the 1960s and 1970s, a time where he witnessed gang warfare and riots; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school in Pasadena, Mr. Tiller completed his undergraduate studies in history and political science at the University of California, Riverside. He received a full fellowship through the United States Indian Law Program and completed his Juris Doctorate at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law; he remained a licensed California attorney until the time of his passing; and

WHEREAS, during his time at UCLA, he witnessed a number of prolific speakers brought to the campus by the Mexican American and Indian Law Students Association, including Cesar Chavez, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, Reies Tijerina, and Browning Pipestem; Mr.

Tiller contributed that seeing such leaders had a profound effect on his worldview throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from law school, David Tiller worked for the Los Angeles Legal Aid Foundation in East Los Angeles, the L.A. Indian Center, and the National Indian Youth Council. He was assigned to be a legal aid monitor for the community during the 1970-1971 uprisings in East L.A., including the aftermath from the death of former *Los Angeles Times* reporter Ruben Salazar; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Mr. Tiller relocated to Nashville, where he soon became a fixture of both the professional and social scene; and

WHEREAS, for thirty years, David Tiller mentored Tennessee entrepreneurs as the Tennessee district international trade officer for the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) in Nashville. By the end of his tenure, he had also served as the public information officer, the veterans business development officer, and the agency liaison to the LGBT Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, always wanting to pass along knowledge, Mr. Tiller also worked as an adjunct professor of business for Nashville State Community College and Tennessee State University, and he lectured on international trade and technology at Middle Tennessee State University, Belmont University, and the Owen Graduate School of Business at Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, he also presented bi-lingual workshops for entrepreneurs sponsored by the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (NAHCC) during Hispanic Heritage Month and Global Entrepreneurship Week, and via partnership efforts with the Nashville Minority Business Center during MEDWeek; and

WHEREAS, David Tiller was also a part of a number of committees and organizations, including the building committee of the Native American Indian Association, the audit committee of the United States Courthouse Federal Credit Union, the Institute of the Electrical and Electronic Engineers Central Tennessee Division, and Operation Stand Down at the Tennessee Veterans Service Center; and

WHEREAS, for his many efforts and contributions to his community, Mr. Tiller received the National Public Information Award from the SBA, the Minority Business Advocate of the Year Award, and the Amigo of the Year Award from the NAHCC; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Tiller was not dedicating his time and efforts to minority communities, entrepreneurs, or veterans groups, he engaged in an active social life, and it was not uncommon to see him attending a drag race, singing at the Sutler Saloon, or performing as a member of the acclaimed troupe "Ghosts of Nashville"; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, David Tiller enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Sheila Robertson Tiller, and he was the proud parent of Edy Lynn Marie and Emily Fredericks; and

WHEREAS, David Tiller leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of David Earl Sheridan Tiller, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Tiller.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.